

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66602
DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:JSWOLF
APPROVED BY: S/S-O:PIOHNSON
----- 027021

R 051555Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO CNO
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T STATE 104144

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, MAY 5, FROM MANAMA RPTD TO
YOU:

QUOTE S E C R E T MANAMA 0527

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 : GDS
TAGS : MARR, 56)
SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS

REFERENCE : MANAMA 0510

1. IN MAY 4 WEEKLY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION, SENSE OF
PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION ON MIDDLE EAST FORCE PRESENCE DID NOT
COME UP.

2. MAY 5 I DISCUSSED MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH
DEVELOPMENT MINISTER SHIRAWI, JUST BACK FROM FEW DAYS IN
KUWAIT. I STRESSED WITH HIM POINTS I HAD MADE TO FOREIGN
MINISTER MAY 1 ABOUT ADVANTAGES TO BOTH U.S. AND GOB OF
EXPEDITIOUSLY CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS FORMALLY.

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3. SHIRAWI PROFESSED TO AGREE GENERALLY WITH THIS POSITION,
IMPLYING HIS FEELING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHERS IN
CABINET PERHAPS OVERESTIMATE INTENSITY AND BREADTH OF
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPPOSITION TO STATIONING AGREEMENT. HIS REMARKS

CONFIRMED FOREIGN MINISTER'S EXPLANATION THAT CABINET'S PROBLEM OF COMPLETING NEGOTIATIONS IS TACTICAL IN NATURE. HE NOTED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER SEEMED PARTICULARLY UNEASY ABOUT GETTING HIMSELF IN POSITION IN WHICH HE FIRST CONCLUDES NEGOTIATIONS WITH USG AND THEN SUBSEQUENTLY UNDER DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES ONCE AGAIN MUST GIVE NOTICE THAT AGREEMENT MUST BE TERMINATED. SHIRAWI NOTED FOREIGN MINISTER WISHED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE US-BAHRAINI RELATIONS AND TO MINIMIZE USG'S UNHAPPINESS SHOULD IT EVER BE NECESSARY FOR NAVY TO LEAVE. I STRESSED THAT WHILE USG UNDERSTOOD THAT OVER LONG-TERM MIDDLE EAST FORCE PRESENCE SUBJECT TO GOB'S VIEWS OF ITS NATIONAL INTEREST IN CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, WASHINGTON RATHER AT LOSS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT ADVANTAGE GOB DERIVED FROM DELAYING CONCLUSION OF PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH CONTAIN UNDERSTANDINGS SUPPORTIVE OF GOB'S POLICY OF RETAINING MIDDLE EAST FORCE.

4. SHIRAWI HINTED HE WOULD PRESS OUR CASE IN THIS WEEK'S CABINET MEETING BUT WARNED THAT CABINET IS NERVOUS ABOUT PARLIAMENTARY REACTION AND INCLINED TO PROCEED WITH GREAT CAUTION.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS THIS MESSAGE TO DEPDEF, CNO, CINCUSNAVEUR AND COMIDEASTFORM TWINAM UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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